

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the caption on page 1, line 9, as follows:

~~BACKGROUND THE PROBLEM AREA~~

Please delete the caption on page 1, line 31.

Please delete the caption on page 2, line 14.

Please amend the caption on page 2, line 20, as follows:

BRIEF SUMMARY ~~BRIEF DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION~~

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7 through page 4, line 13, as follows:

The above object of the present invention is accomplished by providing a novel virtual link handler (VLH) comprising shadow processes (SP) for actual processes communicating across the system and driver adapters (DA) for communicating CPUs. In an arrangement according to the invention, the symbolic PIDs of resident actual processes of a CPU or computer requiring communication with other resident processes of other CPUs or computers of the system are also defined on such other communicating CPUs or computers, respectively. Accordingly, the symbolic PID of a resident SP of a CPU or computer will be the same as the symbolic PID of a resident actual process of another CPU or computer. Hence, a resident process of a particular CPU, identified by its PID and wishing to communicate a signal to another "remote" resident target process of another "remote" CPU with another PID, will on the CPU on which it resides find a "local" SP with the same symbolic PID as the symbolic PID of the "remote" target process. For exchange of signals, the interface of the local SP to a local communicating actual process appears identical to the interface to actual "remote" target process. The local "SP", however, actually makes no decisions based on the signal, but serves the function of forwarding the received signal to the other CPU to which the "remote" target process is allocated and is operating on. On the receiving CPU, the signal message is received by a similar SP, which in turn forwards the signal to the actual target process. Accordingly, the communication of signals between CPUs or computers of systems according to the invention is facilitated by means of the novel VLH without requiring that the actual processes have any knowledge of the presence of the VLH. As can be seen from ~~form~~ the above standing, the SP may serve to receive from a process a signal for forwarding to another CPU or computer as well as to deliver to a process a signal that has been forwarded from another CPU or computer. To communicate signals between the CPUs, the shadow processes on each CPU have interfaces to driver adapters which in turn have interfaces to drivers for the transmission means that provide the channels of the system used to convey messages from a CPU or computer to another.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26 through page 4, line 21; as follows:

With reference to fig. 3, a symbolic representation of an example of an implementation of a DA process according to the invention is shown. After start and initialization, the process sits in the idle state until a signal event occurs. At signal event, if the signal comes from a driver the course of the process is as indicated by the branch marked (1) below, or, if the signal is transferred to a driver the course of the process is as indicated by the branch marked (2).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 through page 5, line 16. as follows:

With reference to fig. 6, a symbolic representation of an implementation of a (generic) SP according to the invention is shown. After start and initialization, the process sits in the idle state until a signal event occurs. At signal event, if the signal comes from a DA the course of the process is as described in the paragraph marked (1) below, for all other signals the course of the process is as described in the paragraph marked (2) below: